Reflections from Your Chronicles Team

April 2014

All of us, regardless of avocation, trade, occupation, or profession, are able to perform our required tasks thanks to specific tools. As genealogists we depend heavily on a variety of documents—manifests, birth, marriage, and death records, naturalization papers, immigrant bank records, property deeds, etc.—to guide us in our research process. Have we ever considered the other types of tools at our disposal?

I recently browsed through past issues of Chronicles and recognized once again the importance of photographs in our work. They jog our memories of past events and provide visual cues that indicate possible resemblances between individuals who we didn’t think (until then) were related. I remember an article I wrote (Vol. 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, pp. 11-12) about a first cousin of my father’s who immigrated to the U.S. in 1940 without her wedding pictures. Imagine the emotional crescendo she and her children experienced when I presented them with copies of those photos when we met in June 2002. Please read an article by Professor Jonathan Herman (Harvard Divinity Bulletin, Winter/Spring 2014) which poignantly details the enormous impact of a single photograph http://www.hds.harvard.edu/news-events/harvard-divinity-bulletin/articles/a-picture-worth-a-thousand-tears or http://tinyurl.com/p3hvd3w. (Thanks to Dick Plotz, Ukraine SIG member, for bringing this to our attention.)

(Continued on Page 3)
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Submission of articles on genealogy for publication in CHRONICLES is enthusiastically encouraged. The editorial board reserves the right to decide whether to publish an article and to edit all submissions. Please keep a copy of your material. Anything you want returned should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

While email and other electronic files are highly preferred, the editors will be happy to work with you and your material in any form. If you have an idea, please contact Evan Fishman of the Editorial Board by email: editor@jgsgp.org or by phone at 856-667-2077.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - ADDRESS CHANGE
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Photographs come in different formats. Walter Spector shared a collage he developed (Vol 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, p. 15) in which he identified businesses, locales, and institutions in bygone Philadelphia.

Such collages provide effective context so that we can not only review our respective family histories but also place them in proper perspective in relation to Philadelphia’s Jewish and general histories.

Consider what information picture postcards provide. They might depict an afternoon outing, a building, or a ship and include a story which provides new information about our ancestors. On pp. 6-8 in this issue Susan Neidich shares her epiphany when she found a picture postcard related to her paternal grandfather.

Both Shelda and Stan Sandler have skillfully maximized the value of keepsakes and personal effects. Shelda wrote (Vol 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, p.14) about finding greeting cards that her parents received on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and then uncovering a list of invited guests (with their associated addresses) to her parents’ wedding nearly eighty years ago! Stan demonstrates on pp. 10 - 11 how his older brother’s World War II dog tags generated an inquiry regarding unknown name changes.

Other less obvious sources for genealogical information include an address book, a program from a school graduation or musical/dramatic performance, a yearbook, yahrzeit (memorial) plaques, etc. The story (pp. 12-13) about a solitary envelope which generated my journey to connect with relatives in Argentina I’d never met attests to the value of such less obvious sources.

In addition to the abovementioned pieces, I hope you’ll enjoy “coming to America” stories by Harry Boonin and Elaine Ellison. We invite you to contribute your own recollections of your relatives’ immigration from Europe or elsewhere. Walter Spector and James Gross offer helpful suggestions regarding the use of charts (Walt) and genealogy newsletters and blogs (James) while Marilyn Mazer Golden shares her own genealogical journey and experience with various research methods. As usual we provide summaries of past society meetings along with requests for random acts of genealogical kindness. Ann and Jack Kauffman have been enormously generous in their efforts to assist out-of-towners with their respective queries; please consider extending yourself similarly.

Being in a shiva house (house of mourning) is always a sad occasion. During my sister-in-law’s recent seven day mourning period for her mother I saw firsthand how this period provides an excellent opportunity for family members to share recollections, confirm or modify family lore and history, and forge even stronger bonds. I sincerely hope none of us experiences a death of a loved one but death is part of life, and we can honor the memory of the deceased by preserving their legacy through our recollections.

Evan Fishman, Editor

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
April 2014

As president of our society I am heartened to see that attendance at our monthly meetings has been growing. We have had some great speakers and are planning many more interesting programs in the future. We have moved the meetings to various locations around the greater Philadelphia area so that people from different neighborhoods who are interested in their family history can attend.

One very exciting program will be our 4th Annual Genealogy Fair which will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 8, 2014 at Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Carole Strickland is chairing this year’s fair and has received commitments from various institutions to provide guidance in many areas of research. Please visit our website, www.jgsgp.org for updated information.

Please also join our Facebook group, “Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia” (http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp). We post information on upcoming events, queries of various kinds from members and non-members, as well as valuable information on genealogical developments.
WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS
AND HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE NAMES & TOWNS
THEY ARE RESEARCHING

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I will be attending the next annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) along with other members of our society. It will be held from July 27 to August 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah, THE mecca for the genealogist.

In addition to the usual beginners, intermediate and advanced programs, this year’s conference will reflect a special theme because it opens one day shy of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I in Europe. There will be presentations, displays, and other activities commemorating that war’s impacts on our ancestors. Hope to see you there.

Fred Blum, President

FROM RUSSIA TO PHILADELPHIA: 1911
By Harry D. Boonin

My five-year-old father and his older sisters and brothers arrived in Philadelphia September 11, 1911 and disembarked from their two-month trek across Europe, Britain, and the Atlantic Ocean. I have written three long articles about their journey previously. For this fourth article, Chronicles editor, Evan Fishman has asked me to describe the “value of the correspondence” I had that enabled me to develop those three articles.

Two specific points relate to the time their ship docked at Washington Avenue in Philadelphia. The story would have never been known if not for two sets of documents, one from the Boonin correspondence and the other from my Uncle Leon’s memoir. These two sets of documents account for 98 percent of the story. Public records added little.

In 1978, when I first became interested in learning about my family’s roots, I asked an elderly aunt if she had older family information. Today, I don’t think this would be as easy as it was in 1978 because she and my Uncle Mendell still lived in the same house they had purchased in 1917. She took me up to her attic and told me to remove a false bottom to a steamer trunk. (Most of our relatives today do not have steamer trunks in their attic, nor do they have old-time attics including an old Singer Sewing machine - but this was 1978). I found about 500 letters written by family members from 1908 through 1917, when my uncle and aunt married. There were about fifty letters from Russia. A cousin, in 1921, saved all of the letters of his branch of the family in a hiding place in his house in Russia. He intended someday to return to his little shtetl and retrieve them. Obviously that never happened.

The other source for my articles was my Uncle Leon’s memoir, written in English, between 1940 and 1944. I do not think many immigrants thought to write about their trip to this country during those years or later. The fact that he wrote it in English made it that much more accessible to the family.

The Eight Boonin Children - 1912

Leon’s letters, especially those from 1908 to 1911, tell of the plans, heartaches, deaths of my grandparents in Russia, and the children’s decision to leave that “dark and miserable Russia,” for the U.S.A. Their older relatives in Russia
were very much opposed to the six children going to America by themselves, although Leon, the oldest was twenty-two years old. They were all determined to go, no matter what roadblocks the relatives put before them. One concern was that the children would not be safe playing outside their house in America. Leon and the rest of children ignored such negative advice. They made the journey with many fine adventures while on the road and on the high seas.

Two facts that might be interesting to those of you with relatives who landed at the foot of Washington Avenue are: inspectors came aboard the ship and asked each immigrant to speak. They were testing them for hearing problems. More importantly two older brothers, already in America, hired a stranger to review with the newcomers all the questions inspectors might ask them. I was unable to determine if the stranger boarded the ship in Liverpool, Queenstown, or Philadelphia. It is amazing to what level of detail they went to prepare for the inspection. My father was the youngest of the children, and my Aunt Jean had a limp that may have been caused by polio. Three of the family had initially been denied boarding in Liverpool because the ship’s doctor said that they had trachoma. They took the medicine given to them and passed his inspection the next day. They did have real worries, just as all families did.

My third article is in the last issue of Avotaynu, The International Journal of Jewish Genealogy. (Winter 2013, Coming to America through Hamburg and Liverpool: Part III: Arrival and Inspection Reaching the Promised Land, Volume XXIX, Number 4.) That article references the first two. ❖

Author Harry D. Boonin is the founding president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia and a well-known genealogical researcher and writer. Harry is the author of “The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia: A History & Guide 1881-1930”, “The Life & Times of Congregation Kesher Israel”, and is researching Jewish boxers from Philadelphia. Contact Harry at: harryboonin@gmail.com

COMING TO AMERICA
By Elaine Ellison

My experience with genealogy research seems to happen in “fits and starts”. I’ve spent a number of days at NARA on Chestnut Street finding the names of ships on which family members traveled to America. At the IAJGS convention held in Philadelphia a few years ago, I discovered my father’s naturalization information. Mostly, however, I review family history from recordings I translated from the Yiddish spoken by my maternal aunt during a family lunch. She died at age 98, lucid and sad that she would not live to 100 to receive a letter from the President.

My mother’s sisters and brothers loved telling their "Coming to America" stories. In addition, they provided details of their life in “Boslav”, a corruption of the name Boguslav, their shtetl in the Kiev Guberniya. They were the Tuchinsky family, all religious Hasidic Jews. The father Shmelick, (my grandfather) and his wife Sarah (my grandmother) initially lived with her parents in another shtetl, Lisinka. Shmelick studied in a rabbi’s court preparing to teach, while Sarah raised the children. After their sixth child was born, he wanted to earn a better living for his growing family. They moved to Boslav, near his father, and he began to repair and build double-faced fireplaces that opened into two rooms. Three more children were born, a total of nine. As the sons reached an age where they could help their father, they too began to work with him.

In the 1890s, family members began to leave Russia. Shmelick's brother, Pacy, traveled to America under Baron de Hirsch’s sponsorship and settled on a farm in Norma, New Jersey. Next, in the early 1900s, Itze, one of my mother’s brothers, immigrated to Argentina with an aunt and uncle. He worked and sent money for family members to immigrate to the United States and continued to do so after he had reached Philadelphia. The second youngest child was ready to leave Boslav in 1910 at thirteen years old. This was my mother, Esther. Papers were in order for her to travel, but she developed an eye infection and was told she would have to wait one more year to emigrate.

She related this experience many times with enough emotion and sorrow to make us cry. The following year, when no other family member had the papers to emigrate, Shmelick searched for people in the town who were planning to leave for America and found two young ladies who were ready to travel. One was a family friend’s daughter, the same age as my mother, while the other was a sixteen year old who wore lipstick and smoked cigarettes. Family members had misgivings and were apprehensive about allowing Esther and her friend Fannie to travel this time. However, since the papers were in order, the girls had to leave for America. They traveled by train to Warsaw. Officials there checked their papers, looked at the girls and became suspicious of the one wearing lipstick. Police arrived
and escorted them to the station, suspecting they were part of a trafficking ring for prostitution.

Esther and Fannie were separated from their escort whom they never saw again. The two were sent to a home/workshop for girls without families. My mother learned millinery, making hats. She said the supervisors and teachers were kind people, and she was happy to be there. In reality, the place was a detention center for wayward girls.

The authorities sent letters to the family in Boslav requesting information and verification of Esther Tuchinsky's identity. Nine months later, in October 1911 new passenger papers arrived at the detention center, and my mother was free to travel to Bremen, Germany and board the SS Chemnitz bound for Philadelphia. At fourteen years old, sitting in steerage, she heard people calling, “Esther Tuchinsky? Esther Tuchinsky, wie bist du?” (Where are you?) Frightened, she raised her hand and said, “Ich bin Esther, (I am Esther.)” The speaker was a young man who followed her voice. When Esther saw her brother Avrum, they fell into each other’s arms. Their brother Itze, who lived in Philadelphia, had arranged with Blitzstein Bank for their passage on the SS Chemnitz.

Although the rough Atlantic seas wreaked havoc of seasickness on the passengers for three weeks, my mother reminisced how she and her brother were calm, happy, and not sick at all. In fact they boiled water and served tea to the people gasping for air on the ship’s deck. When they finally arrived in Philadelphia on November 3, 1911, they were greeted at the dock by Itze. And so began the reunion of the Tuchinsky family in America where their name became Toll.

The only grandfather I ever knew was a name on a tombstone. My paternal grandfather’s name, Gad Asher (or the Yiddish Godoscher) Neidich was Anglicized to George Arthur Neidich. He had one brother Moshe Aaron (Morris) Neidich. Very little was ever said about my grandfather’s life. He died decades before I was born.

What I did know was that Gad Asher had gone to America leaving behind a pregnant wife and three children in Pinsk, then part of the Russian Empire. More than six years elapsed before he was able to bring them to the United States. Two more children were born in the U.S.

My father was only six years old when his father was killed on August 14, 1924. He remembered him leading a seder (ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover) but had next to no other memories of his father. He had been told that his father had driven a horse and cart in Russia. In the U.S. his father was a construction worker. My father’s memories of the full day’s round trip (via trolley, ferry, and three buses each way, from the Bronx to the cemetery in New Jersey) to visit his father’s grave were far more vivid than those of the man himself.

When I did some genealogical research years ago, I was able to learn a few additional random facts. Gad Asher Neidich arrived in the United States on the Holland American Line’s SS Potsdam, on February 14, 1911. He was joining his brother, Moshe Aaron, who had come to the United States in 1902. According to the ship’s manifest, Gad Asher could read and write. He was 4’11" tall, and he gave his occupation as painter.
As a child I was told that my grandfather, a construction worker, was killed when he fell seventeen stories down an elevator shaft in an unfinished building that he was helping to construct. He had leaned over the shaft, and the descending elevator knocked him down. When I was older, I learned that shortly before Gad Asher was killed, he had been made foreman of a crew of Italian and Irish workmen who were not happy to have a Jewish foreman. The family always suspected that these men murdered my grandfather by pushing him down the elevator shaft.

I was curious whether there was any suspicion at the time of his death. I located an article about it in the August 15, 1924, issue of the *Bronx Home News*. The paper’s version of events matched what I had been told as a child. “... It (the elevator) was descending from the 18th floor when Medish (sic), for some unknown reason extended his head into the elevator shaft.”

I acquired my grandfather’s death certificate which documented his cause of death as “multiple fractures, accidentally knocked by elevator down shaft 17 stories.” According to this official documentation, there is no evidence that anyone doubted that it was an accident. The death certificate listed the address of the building as “250 Park Avenue, Manhattan, New York City.”

Although much of Park Avenue was rebuilt in the 1950s and 60s, I was surprised to learn that the building at that address is still standing as it was in 1924. It is the first building on the west side of Park Avenue, north of Grand Central Station.

These random facts, four pictures and a tallit (prayer shawl) bag were all I had of my grandfather’s life. I knew more about his death than about his life.

The families of the two brothers, Gad Asher and Moshe Aaron, were not close. Moshe Aaron died in the 1930s; his wife, Golda, in the 1940s. They had four sons and three daughters. With the exception of weddings, funerals, and Bar Mitzvah celebrations, the families of the two brothers did not associate with one another. I did not meet any of their children. Several years ago a conversation between a first cousin of mine and the father of a classmate of one of her daughters revealed that he, Lloyd Rubin, was our cousin, a grandson of Moshe Aaron, the son of one of his daughters.

I got in touch with Lloyd, and we met at the cemetery where our grandparents and many of our aunts, uncles, and cousins are buried. He had never been there. I had requested that he bring a picture of his grandparents because, despite seeing their graves on a regular basis, I had never seen a picture of them. He brought a bag with pictures that had obviously been languishing in a damp basement for some years. He told me that I could keep it as there wasn’t anything in it that he wanted. We went through the bag’s contents together so he could identify who was in the pictures from his side of the family. Most of what was there was of only minor interest to me beyond seeing a picture of Moshe Aaron, Golda, and Lloyd’s parents.

But then I removed a postcard from the bag. It was written in Yiddish, part of which was obliterated. The handwriting was very difficult to read but the picture on the card was of the SS Potsdam and in very clear Yiddish one could read the name Gad Asher at the top. This was the postcard that my grandfather had sent nearly 100 years earlier to his brother to let him know which ship he would be on when he came to America so that Moshe Aaron could meet him when he arrived in New York.

A hired scribe probably wrote this rather than Gad Asher. The handwriting is ornate. Parts of the postcard are formulaic - “to my much beloved brother, may he live; I come to write to you that I am in good health. May God grant also to see you in good health…” The signature is written, not signed. The legible part of the card relates the day he will leave Rotterdam and that the journey should take 9-10 days. It also states “… I said that I am 33 years old...left a wife at home... I heard talk that many people are turned back. And so I ask you and Golda to come so that I will not have to wait long for you...Be well from me.”

I was thrilled. At long last I was holding something my grandfather had touched, something with information...
had supplied, and even if the handwriting was not his, this [postcard] contained some of his words. After a silence of over eighty years, in one sense, I got to hear his voice.

Of course, this postcard raises a few other questions. It was not written to Morris Neidich, the Anglicization of Moshe Aaron, but to “Moris Leiwis”. Was this just a scribe not understanding my grandfather’s accent, a writing error while copying something that had been written in English, or something else? Why would he have written “I said I was 33 years old”? Wouldn’t his brother have known? Was this mere anxiety about authorities asking questions and wanting to be certain that everyone had their facts straight? Or was this something more insidious – that the surname wasn’t Neidich after all and they weren’t even brothers. I’ll most likely never know for certain, but contemplating the question could keep me occupied for another few years.

Author Susan Neidich, JGSGP VP Membership, is researching Neidich/Nydick from Pinsk, Belarus and Eisenberg from Siedlce, Poland. Contact Susan at: membership@jgsgp.org

MY GENEALOGY JOURNEY

by Marilyn Mazer Golden

I started my family history research in April 2000. My paternal grandfather’s family, surname Mazer, designed and manufactured costume jewelry. My brother and I had the opportunity to work for them in the 1970s. While the business no longer exists, their antique pieces are now often sold on eBay. Many of the descriptions I read about the Mazer brothers were incorrect. I knew these people! It bothered me, and I wanted to make corrections.

My aunt worked with me to write down a sketchy family tree. Before then I didn’t know that my paternal grandfather had eight siblings. My grandmother had seven, but we didn’t even talk about them at that time. I just wanted to know which of my father’s first cousins were on my grandfather’s side and which were on my grandmother’s side. I wanted to make sure I understood who started the jewelry business in the 1940s and which brothers were in business together. If I was correcting strangers, I had to make sure I was right.

Both of my parents were deceased so I had to ask my aunt as many questions as I could. My mother’s family lived in California, and I had not connected with any of them since I was a teenager. As a result, my concentration initially was with my father’s side only. They lived in the Philadelphia area, and besides, it was the Mazer side that designed and sold the jewelry.

Genealogy research was not my first concern. I wanted to right some wrongs. However, once I started, I just couldn’t stop. I wanted to know where these relatives had come from, how they got here, why they went into the jewelry business, etc. My questions kept growing.

I knew that my first task was to send out a questionnaire to every relative that I knew. The second task was to call and speak to relatives of my father’s generation to get their family histories including birth, death, and marriage dates and locations. I asked everyone to send me photos. I asked for stories about my great grandfather Morris. I really wanted to find everyone I could who belonged on my tree.

I recalled childhood visits to Canada so I started calling “Mazer” listings in Canadian phone books. I was very excited when I found my cousin, Joel. He was able to fill me in on his branch of the family. His father had also been in the jewelry business, but moved his branch to Belleville, Ontario. Now I was learning about the migration of the family as well as their personalities. I began to understand more of the story that went along with the genealogy.

My ancestors arrived at Ellis Island from Ukraine. After staying in Brooklyn, they went to Vineland, New Jersey, where they worked and learned trades through the generosity of Baron de Hirsch. This is where they learned how to set stones and began a shoe buckle and costume jewelry business. My grandfather worked in agriculture and later opened a grocery store. His two sisters did not work.

I learned through my research that I had relatives in Alaska, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas, California, Kansas, Israel, Canada, and possibly France. Wow! I connected with all of the relatives for whom I had found information through phone calls, emails, and letters. I was missing a few people, but I was very happy with the 117 direct descendants of my paternal great grandfather who were now on my family tree.

After putting together a notebook about the relatives who belonged to the family tree I had created, I added some history of Ukraine. I had a timeline that stretched nine feet when printed. I researched and planned a first Mazer family
reunion at the Raleigh Hotel in the Catskill Mountains. It was quite exciting to share this experience and meet family for the first time. Since then we have had two additional reunions: one in the Pocono Mountains and one in Collingwood, Ontario. We even published a “Mazer Family Cookbook” including some very old recipes and photos.

I undertook the daunting task of organizing all this information, updating a designated Word document daily. Although I was already working full-time, genealogy research became my second full-time job. Keeping track of my information became much easier after I purchased Reunion for Macintosh software, (http://www.leisterpro.com/) I was able to add information as well as photos, print out a variety of reports, and email them to others. Its updated version includes links to many popular genealogy websites. I was ecstatic. This was and still is the perfect solution for me.

I also discovered Ancestry, (www.ancestry.com). I was able to post my information onto that website and hints popped up. It was and still is a fabulous tool. I also posted my tree information on MyHeritage, (www.myheritage.com), which enabled me to get hints from the trees of mutual relatives!

One day a cousin I had not communicated with since I was sixteen years old contacted me on Facebook. She was my first cousin from my mother’s side of the family. My mother passed away when I was twelve, and I never had much contact with her side of the family who lived on the West Coast. We started writing and calling. That summer I took a trip to meet her and some of her extended family. She named some people in a photo, calling one Uncle Joe. “Who was that?” “Oh, Grandma had a brother? I didn't know that!” It was wonderful connecting and gathering more members for my family tree.

When I got home I immediately put the new research into my Ancestry.com tree. Sometime later I got an email from someone saying they were related to me! We started to exchange information, confirmed we were related, and have continued our relationship. She lives in Minnesota, but we communicate daily through Facebook. Another cousin who lives in Brooklyn [New York] contacted me, we met for dinner, and now she has a relationship with my kids. My newly found cousins in Los Angeles want to meet me too.

I continue with daily searches on Ancestry.com as well as frequenting JewishGen.org. I have also searched for names on Facebook. I’ve found people who could be my relatives and written to them. Responses were positive, and people were willing to send me their information and photos. I was learning new details, getting to know and see what my new extended family looked like!

By the summer of 2013, I had successfully completed family trees for my great-grandfather Morris Mazer and my great-grandfather Soloman Nathanson. The family history now included census reports, ship manifests, birth, marriage, and death records. I discovered newspaper articles, school photos, and addresses where people had lived! The stories were growing.

I was still missing a few cousins. By using LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) I was able to see what type of work my missing cousins do, where they live, and get contact information. Once I found an unusual name which I thought could be my cousin. The California location matched the location information on Ancestry.com. I emailed him and was excited to receive a reply. I last saw him when I was nine years old. His family moved from Florida and stayed with us for a month during the Cuban Missile Crisis. They subsequently moved to California and, after my mother passed away in 1965, we lost contact with each other. I have now added his branch with parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews to the tree.

By doing Google searches I've found additional cousins. Out of the many responses I've received, only one cousin didn't respond, and another asked me to take her off the list. Both of these cousins had unhappy childhoods and continue to be bitter. I respect their wishes and don't take it person-
ally. Not everyone is interested in genealogy. I also won’t say anything about the cousin’s wife who told me she didn’t want the cookbook because she doesn’t cook!

My original purpose has changed from wanting information and “making a tree” to meeting and developing new relationships with “real” relatives. I wanted my children to learn about our family history and to meet the cousins. My goals have been met! My relationships continue to grow and plans for future reunions are in the works.

My grandmother’s family also had a reunion in May 1992. However, like many families, only certain generations were invited. Mine was not. My father had passed away, and I was left with a notebook of information from that event that I hadn’t looked at for years.

I opened it up and discovered my next assignment. One cousin gave me the phone number of another cousin who had organized that reunion along with still other cousins. I contacted him, and we met for the first time over lunch. He put me in touch with still another cousin who had worked on the "Shusterman/Shotz" family tree. We have communicated through e-mail and on the phone. We shared our information and found over 300 descendants. We plan to meet soon in New York City to review our records together.

Shortly before writing this article, an unknown cousin contacted me on Facebook. It turns out he had also started a tree on MyHeritage.com and found matches on my tree. He shared over 100 new relatives with me. He was very excited to find someone as determined as he is to complete the Shusterman/Shotz family genealogy. We have communicated through e-mail and on the phone. We shared our information and found over 300 descendants. We plan to meet soon in New York City to review our records together.

Married to Michael, she has two children, Eli and Sarah. Her interest in genealogy has become a passion.

She is researching MAZER from Elinetz, Ukraine, SHUSTERMAN from Gaysen, Ukraine, NATHANSON from Odessa, Russia, LOCKMAN from Rzeszow, Poland, GOGOL from Savran, Russia, SLOTKIN from Smela, Russia CLOUTS from Telsiai, Lithuania, Glasgow, Scotland, and England.

She enjoys helping others and can be reached at mazergolden@gmail.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?
SURPRISE FROM THE U.S. ARMY - RENAMING MY BROTHER

By Stanley R. Sandler

I t was a big surprise to see my brother Fred when he came home on his first furlough from the U.S. Army in 1946 with a name tag that read “Frank Sandler.”

We always called our older brother “Fred” and to us that was his name. Unfortunately, he died in 1987 [z”l] so I never had the opportunity to question him about this name change. The only explanation I ever received was that there had been a school office error that was never corrected. "Fred" was the only name he used in both his personal and professional (CPA) lives. In fact, he is enumerated as "Fred" in the 1930 U.S. census.

I revisited this story with my next older living brother. He recalled that while my mother was in the hospital following Fred’s birth a nurse was filling out the requisite New York City Department of Health birth form. She asked my mother for the name of her baby. My mother replied it was going to be Fred. The nurse said that a nickname, such as Fred, was not acceptable and recorded the baby’s name as FRANK. My mother was a relatively recent immigrant from Poland and didn't realize the implications of what the nurse had done. It was only many years later, when the U.S. Army used Fred’s birth certificate for his proof of age and his legal name, that the error was uncovered. To Fred’s surprise, the official name that had been recorded on his birth certificate was FRANK SANDLER.

I confirmed this information when I viewed a copy of the original birth certificate that Fred’s widow gave me. Although even

Marilyn Mazer Golden is a retired speech/language pathologist.
his honorable discharge document lists him as "Frank", we will always remember him as Fred.

Two lessons to be learned:
1) As much as possible, review all official forms and documents that someone else is filling out;
2) Don't automatically assume that the information on official documents is correct. Follow good genealogy practice and verify such information.

"What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet;"
William Shakespeare “Romeo and Juliet,”Act II, Sc. ii

Author Stanley R. Sandler is an active member of the JGSJGP Board of Directors, was a co-chair of the hospitality committee at the 2009 JGSJGP-IAJGS conference in Philadelphia, and a co-chair of JGSJGP’s first Genealogy Fair in 2011. He currently is co-chair of the JGSJGP Speakers Bureau and a frequent contributor to “Chronicles.” He has been doing research about his family for over 40 years, both in the U.S. and in Galicia, specifically in Kolomyja, Poland, and in neighboring towns, and also in Vienna, Austria. Contact Stan at stanshel@msn.com.

BEYOND THE CHARTS AND GRAPHS OR SOME ADDITIONS TO FAMILY HISTORY
by Walter Spector

I have added some tangible artifacts to my family history which I’ve found very exciting. Using artifacts is a way to prove that all of the documents are accurate and family members were correctly located at specific places. Did that address really exist? Did the family business actually begin at that location? Did they really do that? What resources should you use? Here are some simple steps, and examples of artifacts from my own family history.

1. Search by surname or given name and surnames.
2. Search using all the words or the exact phrase.
3. Try the usual commercial sites.
4. Try free sites including newspaper-related sites:
   - Old Fulton NY Postcards (http://www.fultonhistory.com); archives of relevant local newspapers; Chronicling America (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/) which includes Philadelphia’s Public Ledger.

Benjamin Lander, my great uncle, got into a little trouble in 1938 as reported in the September Philadelphia Public Ledger.

5.eBay: Look for advertising, postcards, trade cards, magazine ads and manufacturers’ artifacts.

My grandfather, Herman Lander had a curbside Atlantic gas station in South Philadelphia. This can is an auction find.

6. Public libraries have microfilm of newspapers, marriage notices (who was in the wedding party?), obituaries, and business advertisements.

Samuel John Bogatin, my grandfather had a store in Atlantic City, NJ. The ad was found with many others in the Press of Atlantic City.

7. School yearbooks have many patron ads from the community.

My mother, Gladys Spector owned a shoe store. This ad was in a high school ad book.
8. PhillyHistory.org (http://www.phillyhistory.org) has many photographs of city streets.


10. Take a trip to photograph the old neighborhood.

Harry Becker, my great grandfather had a kosher butcher shop in Brooklyn. Today it’s a cleaner.

11. Keep a camera with you. Sometimes your finds are too big to carry or you have run out of wall space.

A former assistant principal in the Philadelphia School District, Walt Spector is an avid collector of historic Philadelphia-themed postcards (Chronicles, Vol. 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, p.15) and is proud of his roots in the agricultural colony of Woodbine, New Jersey. He now serves as a JGSGP vice president.

You can reach Walt at educonser@comcast.net.

AN OLD ENVELOPE RENEWS A FAMILY CONNECTION

by Evan Fishman

Shortly after I began conscientiously researching my family history in 2000, I found an envelope with a 1968 postmark and a Buenos Aires return address. The stateside branch of our family had corresponded with the Argentine branch up until that year when my great aunt could no longer write due to Parkinson’s. The envelope I was holding might have been the last communication from my Argentine relatives in over thirty years.

I used a Buenos Aires telephone directory to verify that the address was still current; remember when we used hard copy telephone directories to check addresses?! Surprisingly a relative still resided at that address. I composed a letter to that female cousin and was able to translate it into Spanish using Google translate. Word of caution: when you translate something, also do a reverse translation back into English to insure that the translation truly reflects your intended meaning.

Several weeks later I received a response from Cecilia, my mother’s first cousin by marriage. She answered many of my questions, especially about her deceased father-in-law who was my maternal grandmother and great aunt’s oldest sibling. He had immigrated to Argentina from Starokonstantinov, Ukraine in 1912, just a few months after his sisters’ arrival in New York City in December 1911. Cecilia was excited about resuming communication with her American relatives.

We exchanged a number of letters, and she sent me photographs of the Argentine branch. I felt somewhat constrained by my lack of knowledge of Spanish and became impatient with “snail” mail. Consequently I was eager to locate another cousin there who comprehended English well enough to communicate with me. I sent a query to JewishGen in the hope of locating an email address for a contemporaneous cousin. True to form, a “JewishGenner” who resided in Argentina performed a random act of genealogical kindness by responding and providing an email address for my second cousin, Mario. He responded to my initial email, and to my dismay he indicated that during the 1990s he had been employed by Johnson & Johnson as a chemical consultant and periodically traveled to its headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey. What a shame I didn’t know about his existence earlier; I would’ve been able to meet him in person since I live only an hour’s drive from there. It certainly would have been easier than going to Buenos Aires!

Mario and I emailed each other from time to time over the succeeding years. Then in 2010 my brother and sister-in-law informed me that they were going to Argentina that summer. I insisted they get together with Mario and Cecilia during their stay and then emailed Mario with details of their itinerary. My brother and sister-in-law arranged with him to meet at their hotel on Saturday night. That evening, Mario and his wife, his Aunt Cecilia, and one of her daughters arrived, and they all transferred to a nearby café. The ensuing conversation
took place in three languages—English, Spanish, and Yiddish! My sister-in-law was the only one who knew all three languages, and I imagine her brain was stretched to the limit that evening! My cousins brought additional photographs which I’ve since incorporated into the family albums.

When they said their good-byes, Cecilia commented that the evening was extremely gratifying and emotional for her. She was the sole link to the oldest generation, i.e. her mother-in-law and father-in-law, the original family members who had immigrated to Argentina, as well as her own generation who were my mother’s first cousins. This gathering represented the first time the two branches saw each other face-to-face in almost 100 years! Our family was once again linked thanks to a simple envelope.

Evan Fishman is the editor of “Chronicles” and has always been interested in learning about his extended family. He began to methodically research his family history in 2000 and has been amazed by the stories and experiences he’s encountered. Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org

TECH CORNER: 
THE USEFULNESS OF GENEALOGY NEWSLETTERS AND BLOGS

by James Gross

Genealogy newsletters and blogs are useful for genealogists as they disseminate new and updated genealogical reference information. Everyone seems to be busy these days, so it’s not always easy to know how to productively allocate one’s time for leisure reading.

Genealogy newsletters and blogs are vehicles that relate new or updated information for genealogy organizations or individuals. Our society publishes the quarterly journal Chronicles. Articles can focus on local, national or international information to update readers on genealogy news. Newsletters may be published in print form or online. Blogs are typically published online. Online publications may be produced in a pdf or html format.

The following four sources are sites where interested researchers can find newsletters and online genealogy blogs. The first newsletter worth noting is published by Avotaynu. Its internet-only newsletter called Nu What’s New? is published weekly. The author labels it the “E-zine of Jewish Genealogy”. An annual subscription is well worth the $12.00 fee. I find the newsletter helpful, and Mr. Mokotoff seems to have a pulse on the latest genealogy announcements.

The second newsletter worth mentioning is Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter. This newsletter offers two internet options: a free edition and a fee-based (Plus) edition which costs $9.95/month or $19.95/year. I usually read the free edition, but the paid edition does have more material.

The third genealogy newsletter, previously entitled “Genealogy Roots Newsletter, is now called the Genealogy Roots Blog. This online genealogy blog is devoted to helping users find online genealogy databases, resources, and records including vital records, obituaries, census, naturalization, and military records, and ship passenger lists.

The fourth genealogy resource is a blog entitled, Ancestry.com blog which is designed to help users learn more about some of the diverse resources available from Ancestry’s online website, Ancestry.com.

For additional genealogy newsletters and blogs, readers can skim Cyndi’s List for the links.

The ultimate decision regarding which genealogy newsletter or blog to read depends on that publication’s availability and cost plus one’s time and budget. I think readers will agree that additional knowledge of genealogy reference material can be very useful, especially when it can help the user discover additional genealogy resources and tools. After all, we never really do stop looking for more genealogy information on our family members.

References:
(1) http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm
(2) http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/
(3) http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/plusedition.html
(5) http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/
(6) http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry
(7) http://www.cyndislist.com/magazines/

Author James Gross has been working on his family tree since the early 1990s and is a periodic contributor to various genealogy newsletters. He also has a genealogy website: http://tinyurl.com/gross-steinberg

James can be reached at: navistar96@yahoo.com
METHODS TO MY GENEALOGY RESEARCH
Marilyn Mazer Golden

It has been fourteen years since I first started my genealogy research. I currently have 1,215 people on my family tree. I have relatives across the United States, Israel and possibly France. My genealogical journey to date is described in an accompanying Chronicles article (p. 8 in this issue.)

Without the use of the Internet, I don’t see how my journey would have been possible. Genealogy websites including: ancestry.com, jewishgen.org, familysearch.org, myheritage.com, obitsarchives.com, EllisIsland.org, rtrfoundation.org, and special interest groups (SIG) for Ukraine and Galicia region Genealogy provided the bulk of my information. I have also used other websites including Google.com, peoplefinders.com, intelius.com, and whitepages.com. I am on Facebook and LinkedIn. I have searched the individual websites of various states as well as that of the Baron de Hirsch Museum and have picked up some useful research hints by attending Jewish genealogy meetings in New York and Philadelphia. In addition I’ve visited Ellis Island, paid to get information about where possible relatives live, ordered birth certificates, called and visited cemeteries, and taken numerous photos.

In spite of all these resources I hit a brick wall when I tried to get information from the various schools my mother attended in Youngstown, Ohio. I contacted East High School and was redirected to three offices to make my request. Finally, I was told that I couldn’t have access to any information because I was not the executor of her estate. I was twelve years old when she died. Need I say more?

Frustrated, I waited a few years and tried again. This time I was told that because of the privacy act (HIPAA) I couldn’t get any records. Why??? What could happen if I knew when or if my mother graduated from high school? I just wanted to know. I did not want to pay a lawyer to become a legal executor of an estate that didn’t exist. I read a post on the JGSJP Facebook page (http://tinyurl.com/jgsjp) about Judy G. Russell’s website, The Legal Genealogist (http://legalgenealogist.com). If I absolutely needed to hire a lawyer, a LEGAL genealogist made sense. I wrote to Ms. Russell who informed me that HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) rules had changed in 2013 and no longer governed school records. I supplied this information in my next letter to the Youngstown City School records department, and within a few days I got my information! I’m very grateful to Judy and now follow her email blogs regularly.

My advice to my fellow researchers: Look everywhere you can for information! Websites and social media provide a wealth of information. Persistence pays off!

Please read notes about Marilyn on p. 10.
She can be reached at mazergolden@gmail.

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY
by Marilyn Mazer Golden

Our speaker was Jessica Lydon, an associate archivist at Temple University, who has spent the last two years processing, cataloging, and preserving the collection originally compiled by the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center (PJAC) (www.philajewisharchives.org), which was founded in 1972 to “obtain important historical records about the Philadelphia Jewish community, and classify and make available information for scholarly research and other educational purposes”. After the digitization process has been completed, the collection’s records will be available online. One of Ms. Lydon’s objectives at our meeting was to create greater awareness of the overall scope of the archive collections.

In 2009 the PJAC collection was donated to the Special Collections Research Center of the Temple University Libraries. The four main sections of the collection include: steamship ticket purchase ledgers, Jewish Exponent obituaries, records from the Association for Jewish Children (1855-1974), and records from the Neighborhood Center (1896-1967), a settlement house in Queen Village formed at

Jessica Lydon, an associate archivist at Temple University
the turn of the 20th century to help new immigrants to Philadelphia. JGSGP members were instrumental in transcribing fifty steamship ticket purchase ledgers, also known as the immigrant bank records, and continue to index the 57,000 obituaries that appeared in the Exponent between 1887 and 2012. Currently the immigrant bank and the Jewish Exponent obituary databases are available at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/.

This collection is open to the public and located on the ground floor of the Paley Library building, 1210 Polett Walk, at Temple’s main campus. Digitization of the steamship ledgers is still underway. The immigrant banks (Rosenbaum, Blitzstein, Lipshutz) offered various financial services and enabled family members in Philadelphia to purchase steamship and railroad tickets for relatives in Eastern Europe.

The records provide important information such as ports of departure and entry, fees paid, and more detailed addresses of the Philadelphia sponsors as well as those of the prospective immigrants whose names appear on manifests.

Ms. Lydon suggested that researchers submit questions and requests for materials in advance to scrc@temple.edu or call (215-204-8257) before going to the library, and bring flash drives to save microfilm images.

Please read notes about Marilyn on p. 10.

SOUTH JERSEY AFFILIATE REPORT
by Diane Montgomery

A small but friendly group of the JGSGP South Jersey affiliate met at Adath Emanu-el on March 27 to hear Bette Epstein, Supervisor of Reference Service at the New Jersey State Archives. The archives hold a wide variety of records dating back to the mid 1600s. Vital records are not considered public records, and consequently only direct descendants can obtain documents after 1913; the Department of Vital Records is more concerned with preserving confidentiality than helping genealogists. Land and estate records are not bound by the same rules.

Also available at the NJ State Archives: searchable brides indexes, military, state prison, marriage, and county records, as well as name change judgments. Delayed birth certificates can provide more information about a child’s family than one filed immediately after birth. Although individual counties keep many records, divorce records are filed with the state.

Collateral thinking, which can be defined as "looking at something but seeing something else", can be useful when hitting brick walls and applying information about or from peripheral family members. I have always been astounded that one of my uncles did not know his own mother’s maiden name, but since his brother did, I was able to complete that piece of the puzzle.

Other potential useful records include probate records and wills which can provide additional family information such as where the parents lived in Europe and names and addresses of siblings. Documents called “unofficial” service cards can be helpful because many records from both world wars were destroyed in a fire in St. Louis in the 1970s.

Filling in the gaps of family history has been a hobby of Diane's for over a decade. She has uncovered family truths. Her interests inspired her son to clean up and catalog Mt.Carmel Cemetery as an Eagle Scout project. Hopefully, DNA testing will lead to more answers.

Contact Diane at: diane.montgomery@comcast.net

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY
By Marilyn Mazer Golden & Avivah Pinski

Our speaker was Katka Reszke, a researcher, writer, and documentary filmmaker. Accompanied by her husband, Slawomir Grunberg, an award winning Jewish-themed documentary filmmaker, Dr. Reske shared her personal story as well as the process she underwent to write Return of the Jew: Discovering Jewish Roots & the Revival of Jewish Life in Contemporary Poland.
Katka always suspected she had a Jewish grandparent but was unable to get any confirmation when she asked her relatives. There were telltale signs of Jewishness i.e. her mother remembering that her mother made braided bread and occasionally hearing a Yiddish expression. She spent some time photographing the Jewish community in her native Poland as a volunteer. As a result she identified with the young Jewish community, and decided to convert. She was later awarded a scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Jewish education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. While in Israel she studied in a yeshiva (Talmudic college) and briefly lived as a modern Orthodox Jew. Belatedly she learned that three of her four grandparents were Jewish, and now both her parents identify as Jewish and Polish.

In researching her book Reske interviewed fifty young Polish adults (ages 18-35) who identified with the Jewish community and believed they were descendants of possible Holocaust survivors. For the purpose of this study those subjects had to satisfy the following criteria: having one Jewish grandparent, belonging to a Jewish organization, and being actively involved in Polish Jewish life. As a result of these interviews, Reske discovered that only six out of the fifty knew they were Jewish all of their lives.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 people in Poland started discovering their Jewish roots. Thanks to an environment that’s open to Jewish culture and heritage a resurrection of Jewish culture has developed. While the original Jewish culture festivals, which started in the 1990s, were run by non-Jews, they are now co-managed by both Jews and non-Jews. These festivals along with educational programs have generated a burgeoning rediscovery by some young Poles of their Jewish roots. These young people want the world to know there is an active, “authentic” Jewish community in Poland.

April’s Genealogy in the Round session proved to be a spirited opportunity for over thirty attendees to break down brick walls and share ideas on how to progress in our research.

Some key comments:

- The Italian Genealogical Society (www.italiangen.org) provides information about birth, deaths, and marriages in the New York City area and is an invaluable resource.
- Enter titles at www.familyhistorysearch.com to identify corresponding NARA microfilm numbers. Also send queries to Family Search; their staff is very responsive.
- An April 7, 2014 article in The New Yorker raises questions about the validity of death certificates and documents in general. Keep in mind that records are often created after the fact, and hence, the information they provide needs to be verified.
- Think “outside the box” when searching for the correct manifest for an ancestor. For example, names can be reversed. Check out a different ticket if the individual went back to Europe.
- What to do when a relative has information but has been unwilling to share? Approach that person sensitively.
- Care of a cemetery often changes hands. Carole Strickland’s father initially took care of the family cemetery in Bellevue, Illinois. On a recent visit there she learned that the local Jewish congregation had given control of the entire cemetery to the state without her knowledge. This isn’t an uncommon scenario.
- Yearbooks can be a useful source of information. Check out www.classmates.com for digital versions; www.ancestry.com has photos; Steve Morse’s site (www.stevemorse.org) provides access to New York City high school yearbooks.
- Use a broad approach to finding answers: a wedding invitation led to contacts in England and Scotland for me; write to synagogues; search cemeteries. Use www.jewishgen.org and www.ancestry.com in attempts to connect different branches of your family.

A longtime civil rights attorney in private practice in Bryn Mawr, PA, Avivah Pinski also volunteers at HIAS Pennsylvania, which provides non-profit legal and social services for immigrants and refugees. Aviviah is researching: Zuchman in Sarnaki & Karczew Poland, Reznik in Drohiczyn nad Bugiem & Siemiatyss Poland, Koifman in Secureni (Bessarabia) now Ukraine; Pinski in Mohilev, Belarus & Kopek in Polatsk, Belarus & Vienna, Austria. Rificzes in Llvi (Lemberg) Ukraine & Vienna, Austria.

Contact Avivah at: avivahpinski@verizon.net
• How can I identify an unknown woman who’s buried in a family plot? Should I assume she is actually related? How can I find this out? Try to determine who paid for her burial, where she lived; if she immigrated, identify where she came from.

• Post your tree on many sites: Ancestry, My Heritage, Geni, and Reunion. Let others contact you. Word of caution: don’t display information about living people; keep it private.

• JRI-Poland documents provide birth, marriage, and death records. Be sure to check all columns in case there’s additional information.

• Sometimes you may need to pay for records in order to move forward.

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**Pennsylvania Vital Records Update**

by Tim Gruber

The initial batch of Pennsylvania state death certificates is now online through Ancestry.com (as of April 18th). Remember only birth and death certificates that are open records will be online (50 years old for death certificates and 105 years old for birth certificates).

The overall schedule is:
- 1906-24 death certificates – April 2014
- 1925-44 death certificates – June 2014
- 1945-63 death certificates – November 2014
- 1906 birth certificates – March 2015

Pennsylvania residents (and only Pennsylvania residents) have free access to this particular database as they do with other Pennsylvania State Archives records already scanned and made available online by Ancestry. Free access for Pennsylvania residents is accomplished by registering online at no cost through this link, (please be sure to read the instructions carefully): http://www.portal.state.pa.us/.

Pennsylvania residents that already have a subscription to Ancestry do not need to do anything as long as they continue to have a subscription to Ancestry.

Out of state residents do need a subscription to Ancestry to access these records. However, many libraries and research centers everywhere provide free access to Ancestry. After three years the records will be moved to the Pennsylvania State Archives website and be free to all.

Thank you (JGSGP) for your help in getting the PA state law changed that made this possible. Without your help we would still be stuck with the old extremely restricted access to Pennsylvania state birth and death certificates and wishing it were different.

For more information, please visit: www.pahr-access.org. Good luck in your searches and keep in mind mistakes in indexing (most especially on Ancestry) and the original certificates are to be expected.

Tim Gruber, spokesperson for PaHR-Access, shared this information with JGSGP. “PaHR-Access (People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access) is strictly a grassroots organization started in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania in August 2007... We are ordinary people who literally want to have better access to Pennsylvania’s historical records. Our main concern is Pennsylvania state birth and death certificates.”

You can reach Tim at: pahraccess@rcn.com

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**Message from South Philadelphia High School Alumni Association**

We’re sharing this message because of the potential value of yearbook information for genealogists:

South Philadelphia High School is encouraging its graduates to become Lifetime Members of the alumni association (sphsalumni.com) at the one time cost of $25.00. “One of the perks of Lifetime Membership in the SPHS Alumni Association is the ability to purchase your yearbook for the cost of just $15.00.” This offer is available only to Lifetime Members because of the limited number of copies in stock. “The association has yearbooks dating back to the first graduating class of 1910 so if you have lost or damaged your yearbook or if you never had one, you can order the yearbook (only one per Lifetime Member)” while they’re available.

If you are unsure of your membership status or that of a relative pictured in his/her relevant yearbook, please send an email to info@sphsalumni.com.
I am trying to find where my great grandparents are buried in Philadelphia. Their names are Bernard and Friederica Tieder.

[I] do not have any information on Bernard's birth date or place. He emigrated to the United States from Moravksa Ostrava, in the Austrian Empire and settled in Philadelphia. No date as to when this happened. No date also on his death. Friederica emigrated later but again, [I] do not know when. She was born Friederica Traumann, supposedly about 1874, but I question this fact as I will explain later.

In 1910 their Philadelphia address was 248 South Sixth Street. The 1910 census showed they were in the 16th and 18th district. Does this correspond with Sixth Street?

A genealogist who did research for us in the Czech Republic found in the archives of the city of Ostrava an announcement that Friederica died on March 10th of 1923 in Philly and was buried there as well. Since they were Jewish, I would assume she would have been buried in a Jewish cemetery and quite possibly with Bernard.

Not sure if it matters, but the 1910 census listed her age as 62, and my math would then put her birth year as 1848, give or take. Bernard was 60.

Here is also some other information I feel you should know. Bernard came to America first. Either on the ship or in Philadelphia he married a woman by the name of Sara (Sarah) and had a family with her. When Sara died, Friederica was brought to this country. [He also had a family with Frederica.] Just a Tieder soap opera.

I am more that willing to pay for someone's assistance in finding the cemetery Friederica, Bernard and possibly even Sara are buried. Any help would be great.

I am going to forward a copy of this email to my sister Mary Tieder Adams. She has put together most of the Tieder past genealogy. I have compiled the Tieders from my grandfather and his one brother up to this date, but I really want to find their grave sites. Again thank you very much.

Contact Bill either by email (btieder@hotmail.com) or phone (573-819-6461).

Breaking News

Bill Tieder’s Query has been answered, with the help of a JGSGP member and new information in this issue of Chronicles. Read how, in our next issue!
in genealogy but more importantly in helping people. She and her coworkers did some research for me and had it ready for me when I visited her at the library. Barbara was thoughtful enough to reach out to JGSGP on my behalf. That is how I connected with Fred Blum and Evan Fishman.

Fred emailed me some information on my family that he located, and Evan kept in contact with me prior to and during my Philly visit. He was gracious enough to post my request on JGSGP site and make an announcement and share my information with everyone at a society meeting. I am so grateful for Marilyn, Ann and Jack because they went out of their way to find me information and suggest resources.

A special thank you goes out to Ann and Jack. I am so overwhelmed with how generous they were with their time, experience, and willingness to help me. They researched my Rabin family quite a bit on their own and found so much information that I was unable to find; they guided me, explained things regarding what to do and not do, even went to the National Archives and City Hall and requested records for me ahead of time so they would be available for me to view when I had time to get there. They kept in contact with me and even continued researching after I left Philly. They were absolutely incredible! There is no way that I could have accomplished as much as I did without everyone’s help and for that I thoroughly and humbly thank you all.

I accomplished quite a bit during my visit. I had prioritized six items and progressed on all of them. I was also successful at reaching other goals that I had not prioritized for this visit. Between all the help I talked about above and also meeting up with three cousins that I had just met during my visit, I now have 178 people in my family tree and have many documents to support my research. I also found out that a person I believed to be a brother of my great-grandfather was actually his nephew, which helped out immensely.

I look forward to continuing my research and returning to Philly at some point. Thank you again for being such an incredible organization with such wonderful members.

Note: In gratitude for all the help she received, Bobbi joined JGSGP and made a generous donation to our society.

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Quizmaster, David Brill is a member of JGSGP and has been researching his own family history in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and the United States for over 20 years. Coordinator of the Russian Interest Group for JGSGP, he has made several presentations about various aspects of genealogical research in regions of the former Russian Empire. David has been active in transliterating documents, including all existing Jewish and vital records for his ancestral shetl of Usvaty, Russia. He also maintains a Kehilalinks page for Tuchin, Ukraine. Contact David at brilldr@comcast.net
Conference Highlights

- On its centennial, presentations on World War I and its impact on our ancestors
- Sharing your World War I era family stories and pictures
- Focus areas on Technology, Migrations, Ethics and Jews of the Western U.S.
- Welcome Reception, Breakfasts with the Experts, SIG Luncheons, Gala Awards Dinner
- Computer workshops for a hands-on experience
- Access to the Family History Library and its non-Internet accessible collections
- Free access to subscription-based genealogy databases from around the world
- The latest products from a wide array of genealogically focused exhibitors
- A SHARE Fair to learn about and link up with diverse genealogy organizations (SIGs, BOFs, JGSs, etc.)
- Useful technology, including conference materials on your smart phone, tablet and laptop
- The ability to come in person, participate over the Internet using IAJGS LIVE! and later, or to do both,
- A secure, friendly Conference Family Finder available on-line before and after the conference
- Making new connections and renewing friendships

Q. What is IAJGS LIVE!?

A. About 50 outstanding sessions will be broadcast live over the Internet and will remain available for three months. Individuals who cannot attend the conference in person may wish to subscribe to IAJGS LIVE! and have access to about one-third of the presentations offered at the conference. Those who come to the conference may also wish to subscribe to view sessions they were unable to attend or to see those again that they especially enjoyed. Individuals can register to attend the conference, to subscribe to IAJGS LIVE!, or to do both through the on-line registration facility which will open in late December. Attendees who choose to add IAJGS LIVE! to their registration will be able to purchase it at a significant discount. IAJGS LIVE! is made possible through the generous support of FamilySearch.

More information, including the complete interactive conference program is online at: http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/index.cfm

NEW YORK CITY DEATH INDEX

John Martino of the Italian Genealogical Group (IGG) is looking for volunteers to assist in indexing the New York City Death Index. Please read his message below, and seriously consider offering your help. Many of us have benefited from the IGG’s databases, including Bride & Groom indexes.

We are currently working on a database of New York City Deaths from 1949 to 1963. These records are not available at the NYC Municipal Archives but are held by the NYC Department of Health.

This project will cover the years between what the NYC Municipal Archives contains and the Social Security Death Index. It will be a very big help to genealogists doing research. They may or may not be able to get copies of death certificates but it will aid in determining a date of death.

We have a great deal of the database completed, but we still have a ways to go and need your help. You would be working from a copy of the printed death book. It is not the greatest copy but it is not handwritten work.

Can you help us get this important project completed?

If you’d like to volunteer, please contact John Martino at: johnm16881@aol.com
Dear JGSGP members:

We would like to extend our speakers bureau's reach to a broader audience in the Philadelphia Jewish community. We've composed the following message along with a flyer for distribution to your synagogue or organization. Please post or share the flyer below and accompanying message with the appropriate individuals. The flyer below, can be printed as a hard copy or submitted in electronic format for distribution. You can download it at: http://www.jgsgrp.org/Documents/Speakers_Bureau.pdf

Many thanks.

As part of our outreach to the Jewish community, JGSGP established a speakers bureau in 2010. Our goal is to increase awareness of the importance of uncovering your Jewish family heritage and/or tracing your family roots. We have a total of 20 volunteers who are willing to speak for about one hour to your synagogue group or organization. We ask that at least ten adults interested in genealogy be present during any presentation.

**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA (JGSGP)**

**JGSGP SPEAKERS BUREAU**

**“HAVE EXPERTISE IN GENEALOGY, WILL TRAVEL”**

**WE HAVE SPEAKERS AVAILABLE FOR SYNAGOGUE GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED IN TRACING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS.**

Please contact Stan and Shelda Sandler for more details at (stanshel@msn.com)

**Reminder:** Deadline for articles for summer issue is June 14th. Please send your material to: editor@jgsgrp.org

After a number of years of publishing “Chronicles,” your editorial team has settled into a comfortable pattern in presenting the content and style of our journal.

We have not recently asked our readers whether the material we are providing is what you want to see. Please let us know whether you would like articles on different subjects, with a different emphasis, and / or a change in our graphic presentation.

Please respond to editor@jgsgp.org with your ideas and suggestions. We exist to support our members’ genealogical pursuits by providing you with relevant, informative material. YOUR comments, suggestions, and gentle criticisms will help us improve OUR publication.

Thank you.
Your Chronicles editorial team
Our past president, Leonard Markowitz, suffered a traumatic brain injury following a fall on a patch of ice on Jan 6th. After undergoing emergency brain surgery and a three week hospital stay he is has been a patient at Moss Rehab. We recently received the note below from his daughter, Lynn Pechinski. Please direct all messages for Len to Lynn: sales@1st-straw.com.

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Dear Members of JGSGP,

Thank you very much for the beautiful flower arrangement sent to my father, Leonard Markowitz. Everyone who walked by remarked how fragrant the bouquet.

It is the tough times in our lives we are reminded how important it is to have friends and family who are so caring. My Dad is so passionate about genealogy and helping people with their study. It reminds us all how we are connected, generation to generation.

Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers.

Very truly yours,

Lynn Pechinski
Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to our NEW ADDRESS:
JGSGP, 1657 The Fairway, #145, Jenkintown, PA 19046
You may also complete our online form and pay your dues using Paypal on our web site:
http://www.jgsgp.org/

**Membership Categories**

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<td>Family - $35 (2 Person Household)</td>
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*A check is enclosed for the amount of:*

Name (please print)____________________________________________________
Additional Name(s)____________________________________________________
Address 1 ___________________________________________________________
Address 2 ___________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip+4 ______________
Phone (____)_______________ email: ____________________________________
Family Membership second email: _______________________________________

**Dues are for the calendar year, January 1-December 31, 2014.**
(New members joining after September 30, 2013, receive membership benefits through December 31, 2014.)
Contributions and dues are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

What are the most important surnames and their associated ancestral towns that you are researching?
Provide up to three surnames, towns and current countries which will later be shared with other members.

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**JGSGP CALENDAR & REMINDERS**

Please note that our mailing address has changed to: 1657 The Fairway, #145 Jenkintown, PA 19046

Please direct all U.S. mail correspondence to this address.

Look for information about other IAJGS member societies: [http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html](http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html)

Join the JGSGP Facebook group: [http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp](http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp). Our members are continually posting fascinating news and developments which impact on genealogy and important related areas.

A thirty minute period before each meeting is devoted to browsing reference books and help from mentors.

Program details will be posted on the JGSGP website as soon as they are complete: [www.jgsgp.org](http://www.jgsgp.org)

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**Monday May 19 at 7:30 PM Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel**

8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027

Ron Arons, Jewish genealogy author and speaker

"Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves"

Genealogy is more than building family trees with names, dates, and places. By looking at families at a systems level, anyone can learn more about how relatives have an impact on one another through multiple generations. Understand the “whys” and “hows” of your life and that of your relatives. During this presentation Ron will discuss individual-focused genealogy, genograms (family trees which display emotional relationships among relatives), and the basics of Family Systems Theory. Ron has published two genealogically-oriented, true crime books: *The Jews of Sing Sing* and *WANTED! U.S. Criminal Records*. This year Ron published his latest book: *Mind Maps for Genealogy*. Ron earned a B.S. in Engineering from Princeton University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

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For complete and up to the minute program information, check your JGSGP emails or our web site: [http://jgsgp.org](http://jgsgp.org)

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**4th Annual Genealogy Fair**

“If it’s June, then it must be time for the genealogy fair”

**Sunday, June 8, 2014 1-4 pm**

Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA 19096

Overall chair is Carole Strickland, and Avivah Pinsky is coordinating logistics at the synagogue.

Carole is requesting volunteers to handle tasks both before June 8 and on the day of the fair itself.

Pre-fair assignments include: determination of stations, staffing needs; contacting and scheduling repositories, presenters; coordination of IT needs of presenters; publicity: drafting press releases; updating email addresses of publicity recipients; designing flyers using computer graphics techniques; mailings (snail & electronic) of press releases and posters/flyers; hand delivering posters and flyers to appropriate locations.

**Sunday, June 8: welcome/registration table; room decoration and set-up assistance**

**Please contact Carole at czs452@gmail.com to offer your assistance.**

The success of this event depends on the COLLECTIVE EFFORTS of many JGSGP members.